

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

25X1

TOPIC Third Kommando in Droegehalde of the KVP Bereitschaft in Prenzlau

25X1 EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

25X1 DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

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REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS [REDACTED]

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1. Prior to 23 July 1953, the Third Kommando in Droegehalde was subordinate to the KVP Bereitschaft (KVPD 1213 in Prenzlau, TV Nord (KVPD 4000) in Pasewalk. It had the following organization and strength:

	Officers	NCOs	EM
Headquarters	20	10	80
Kommando school	5	6	30
Drivers' course	2	10	20
Supply company	2	6	30
Motor transport company	2	17	56
S-1 company	2	8	18
S-2 company	2	12	54
S-3 company	2	8	22
S-4 company	2	8	26
S-5 company	2	8	22
S-6 company	2	8	22
1st through 3d Bns, each	19	93	233
The three battalions were organized as follows:			
Headquarters	6	2	2
Supply platoon	1	20	60
1st through 3d Rifle Cos, each	2	11	14
Machine gun company	2	3	18
Mortar company	2	12	19
B battery			

Each rifle company consisted of 3 rifle platoons and 1 heavy machine gun platoon; each rifle platoon consisted of 3 squads, each of 1 NCO and 6 EM; and the heavy machine gun platoon consisted of 2 squads, each of 1 NCO and 2 EM. The machine gun company consisted of 3 platoons organized like the heavy machine gun platoon of the rifle company. Posts reserved for master sergeants according to the 1/0 were frequently held by officers. This situation was to be remedied as soon as possible. The officers involved were either to be transferred to other units as officer reinforcement or, if they proved unqualified, to be demoted. Those officers who had enrolled for a three-year term of service only were to be discharged. Officers who were promoted in advance of schedule had to undergo an additional examination.

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2. Officers [redacted] included Lieutenant Colonel Kertow (fmu), commanding officer of the Third Kommando; Major Boden (fmu), deputy commanding officer; Captain Leged (fmu), chief of staff; Senior Lieutenant Walther (fmu), commanding officer of the 1st Bn; and Senior Lieutenant Paulitz (fmu), commanding officer of the 3d Bn. Most of the Soviet advisors of the units of the Third Kommando left for reassessments after the new organization on 23 June. Prior to 23 July, only four Soviet advisors including 1 colonel, 2 majors and 1 captain, all wearing KVP uniform, were still with the Third Kommando.
  3. The rifle company was equipped with 2 heavy machine guns, 9 light machine guns, 18 pistols, 37 submachine guns and 32 carbines; the machine gun company was equipped with 3 x 127-mm AA machine guns; the mortar company was equipped with an undetermined number of 82-mm mortars; and the E battery was equipped with 2 model 42 AT guns of 45 mm and 2 x 127-mm AA machine guns.
  4. After the reorganization on 23 June, the rifle company was no longer equipped with motor vehicles. Vehicles for training purposes had to be requested by the Kommando. All vehicles of the Third Kommando were parked on a motor vehicle parking lot near an artillery equipment park in the vicinity of Torgelow.
  5. The unit included 3 percent of the 1936 class, 10 percent of the 1935 class, 30 percent of the 1934 class, 40 percent of the 1933 class, 5 percent of the 1932 class and 12 percent of the 1931 class and older classes. The first battalion came from Halle, with 10 percent of its personnel coming from Saxony and 90 percent from Saxony-Anhalt. The second battalion came from Zittau with 80 percent coming from Saxony and 20 percent from Mecklenburg. The third battalion came from Loetsau, with 90 percent coming from Saxony, 5 percent from Saxony-Anhalt and 5 percent from Mecklenburg. Twenty percent of the personnel were reliable Communists, 30 percent were indifferent and 50 percent were secretly opposed to the regime.
  6. The unit was alerted from 18 to 23 June 1953. All equipment was packed but no arms were issued. During that period, those officers, NCOs and EM who, in connection with the riot, openly criticized government measures were arrested by the SSD. The entire KVP Bereitschaft in Prenzlau was again alerted on 3 July. The troops were told that they would be committed along the sector boundaries in Berlin, in conjunction with "F" Day, announced by the West. The 8th Co of the 3d Bn of the Third Kommando was quartered in the vicinity of the PK school in Berlin-Treptow.

[redacted] Current. Compare with a previous report on the First Kommando of Division Prenzlau. [redacted] Corresponding information on the strength and organization of the two regiments was obtained.

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